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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 18 September 1952

SUBJECT Sindok Lead and Zinc Mill, North Korea

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFO. NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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1. the Sindok (approximately 128-48, 40-55) (DA-843294) ore mill, under the direction of the North Korean Ministry of Industry, was milling lead and zinc for shipment to Russia by way of China. Shipments were being made by train and truck. Train shipments were conveyed by cable cars from the factory to the Yoyang (approximately 128-49, 40-54; DA-8526) railroad station.

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2. The location of the mill installations was as follows:

- The workshops (DA-843294) stood at the slope of a mountain, about 25 meters east of a highway connecting Och'onjang-ni (128-49, 40-56) (DA-8531) with Tanch'on (128-54, 40-27) (DV-9277). The workshop buildings measured 20 by 15 by 15 meters, faced west, and had gray zinc roofs. The three looked like one long building.
- The office was 120 meters north of the workshops at DA-845298; the guard post was at DA-848297; and the vehicle fuel store room at DA-843279.
- The employees lived in approximately 100 caves, lined with wood, near Och'onjang-ni.
- The mill employed 2,550 people. There were five Russian advisers at the mill, including at least one refining technician. The Russians wore plain clothes inside the compound and Chinese Communist army uniforms when they went outside the area. They carried weapons. In addition to the regular mill employees, several hundred prisoners who had been convicted of anti-Communist activities were working as miners. In June 1952, eating utensils and rooms were being prepared to accommodate approximately 2,000 ROK army prisoners of war, who were to be used as miners.
- Executive personnel included a manager and a deputy manager. The deputy manager was in direct control of the various departments, which included an

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engineering bureau, an accounting bureau, a business bureau, a production bureau, and a transportation battalion. The transportation battalion had been assigned to the mill by the North Korean People's Army general headquarters.

5. In June 1952 the mill was operating 24 hours a day on a three-shift system, and was producing 10,000 tons of raw ore, 500 tons of milled lead ore, and 2,500 tons of milled zinc ore monthly. A given quantity of raw lead ore, after processing, was reduced to 25 percent of its volume, this amount being 60 percent pure lead, and similarly, the raw zinc ore was reduced to 5 percent of its original volume, 55 percent of the refined ore being pure zinc.
6. Facilities and equipment at the mill included ore milling machinery, mining machinery, conveyors, sawing machinery, machine tools, power transformers, and vehicles.
7. In January 1951, the Sindok Lead and Zinc Mill was attacked by the United Nations Air Force, but the machinery suffered no damage.¹

1. [redacted] Comment. On 2 August 1952, this mill was 75 percent destroyed and other buildings and facilities damaged by an air strike of United States Navy carrier planes operating off the east coast of North Korea.

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